3284. [*Transferred to the 25th March, 1992*].

Welfare schemes for Advocates

3285. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons enrolled as Advocates in the country at present;

(b) whether Government provides any help to Advocates to settle in profession;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to have any old age pension scheme for the Advocates or some other scheme for helping the dependents of such Advocates who die at a young age; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM): (a) As reported by Bar Council of India, as on 30-6-1990, 3,80,953 persons were enrolled as advocates.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Widening the purview of cost accounting

3286. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring a greater number of products under the ambit of "Cost Accounting";

(b) the names of all such products presently under consideration; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to check "undu" and "unjustified" increase in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prescribing of cost audit in respect of industries engaged in production, processing, manufacturing or mining activities is a continuous exercise. Government have recently initiated steps to extend statutory Cost Audit in respect of products like Fertilizers, Industrial Gases, Edible Oils, Toilet Preparations like Soaps Detergents, Tooth Pastes, Pesticides, Insecticides, Weedicides, Fungicides (technical grade) and Formulation of these pesticides etc.

(c) Whenever cases of 'undue' and 'unjustified' increase in prices come to our notice as a part of review of the Cost Audit Reports by my Department, the same are reported to the Administrative Ministries concerned for taking appropriate action. One copy of the Cost Audit Report is also made available each to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and Administrative Ministry concerned. Practices which have the effect of preventing restricting or distorting competition in any manner and in particular by bringing about manipulation of prices so as to impose on consumers unjustifiable costs or restrictions can also be got enquired into by making a reference to the Commission under Section 10 (a) (ii) of MRTP Act. In addition Government can also take